

Revelation

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

Summary & Structure

REVELATION

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

27

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

22

TYPE

PROPHECY



OVERVIEW

This epistle was written by John the Apostle after his exile to the Island of Patmos. His epistle is divided into two parts: the first addressed the Seven Churches of Asia and events at the time it was written, and the second part prophesied of future days and the end of the world. Almost exclusively prophecy, Revelation mirrors Old Testament prophets such as Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel in intriguing ways. While seemingly radical and highly symbolic, the book can be relevant and welcome by believers of the millennium.



WRITTEN
90-95 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
All Eras in the Age of
Grace



AUTHOR
Jesus Christ through
the Apostle John

Key Verse

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

Background

Author: John the Apostle

Date Written: AD 95-96

Style of Writing:

Revelation is the only New Testament book written in the apocalyptic style.
"Apocalyptic" - something that is hidden and then unveiled.

The greater portion of Revelation is contained in a series of four sevens.
Seven Letters, Seven Trumpets, Seven Seals, Seven Bowls

There are also seven 'blessings' in this book.
Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:24

Interpretations of Revelation:

Preterist: The view that most of the book was fulfilled in the past.

Historical: The view that the book presents a continual history of the Lord's church.

Futurist: The view that the book is only about future, end-time events.

Spiritual: The view that Revelation is a book of symbols and figures that are designed to teach a spiritual lesson.

OT References: Revelation contains many references to the book so of the Old Testament. There are 278 references in 404 verses.

Symbolism: Revelation relies heavily on the symbolic use of numbers and images. Some describe it as "God's picture book."

Outline

The Struggle on Earth: Persecution Before Victory (Chapters 1-11)

The Glorified Christ in the Midst of the Lampstands (Revelation 1-3)

A Picture of Christ (Revelation 1:12-17)

A Message to the Seven Churches

Letters to the Seven Churches				
Church	Commendation	Rebuke	Solution	Consequence of
Ephesus (2:1-7)	doctrinal vigilance and endurance	loss of first love	remember, repent, and do the works done at first	removal of their lampstand
Smyrna (2:8-11)	spiritually rich, enduring persecution		be faithful unto death	
Pergamum (2:12-17)	holding fast Christ's name, not denying their faith	false teaching	repent	war against them with the sword of Christ's mouth
Thyatira (2:18-29)	growing love, evidenced in deeds of service	lack of discernment; toleration of heresy	hold fast and keep Christ's works till the end	each given as their works deserve
Sardis (3:1-6)	a few remain pure and loyal	dead works	keep the Word and repent	Christ will come like a thief
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	patiently enduring, keeping God's word and not denying his name		hold fast what you have	
Laodicea (3:14-22)		spiritually blind, bankrupt, naked, lukewarm	buy gold, white garments, and salve from Christ; be zealous and	will be spit out of Christ's mouth

The Book with Seven Seals (Revelation 4-7)

The Throne Scene

The Setting (Revelation 4)

The Action (Revelation 5)

The Loosing of the Seals (Revelation 6-7)

The Seven Seals of Revelation						
First Seal (6:1-2)	Second Seal (6:3-4)	Third Seal (6:5-6)	Fourth Seal (6:7-8)	Fifth Seal (6:9-11)	Sixth Seal (6:12-17)*	Seventh Seal (8:1-2)
White Horse	Red Horse	Black Horse	Pale Horse	Martyrs Cry	Celestial Signs/Picture of the Righteous	Vision of Trumpets
					*Chapter 7 contains an intermission with a vision of a great multitude of God's righteous ones.	

The Seven Trumpets of Judgment (Revelation 8-11)

The Seven Trumpets of Revelation						
First Trumpet (8:7))	Second Trumpet (8:8-9)	Third Trumpet (8:10-11)	Fourth Trumpet (8:12-13)	Fifth Trumpet (9:1-12)	Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21)*	Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)
A third of the earth burned up. (trees)	A third of the sea turned to blood.	A third of waters turn bitter.	A third of sun, moon, and stars do not shine.	"Locusts" form into a military power.	A third of mankind killed by an army of 200-million.	The kingdom of God is declared.
					*Chapter 10 contains an 'intermission with a vision of an angel and a scroll.	

The Deeper Spiritual Background: Christ (and His Church) are Persecuted by the Dragon and His Allies. The Victory of Christ and the Church (Chapters 12-22)

The Cosmic Battle (Revelation 12)

Dragon and the Woman

Ephesians 6:12

The Earthly Battle (Revelation 13)

Based on images seen in Daniel 7-12

Represents military and economic powers

The beasts demand full allegiance from the nations.

About the Mark of the Beast (666)

The Placement

- Writing on the forehead and hand is a clear reference to the Shema, an ancient Jewish prayer of allegiance to God found in Deuteronomy 6:4-8.
- The Israelites would bind the prayer on their foreheads and hands to remind them of their allegiance to Almighty God.
- Rebellious nations now demand their own allegiance.

The Number

- Hebrew letters were also numbers.
The name *Nero Caesar* = 666; The word *Beast* = 666
- In keeping the patterns spelled out in the Old Testament books of prophecy, the nations become "beasts" when they become full of pride. They rise up, intimidate, and dominate. They demand total allegiance but ultimately fall.

Source: The Bible Project

The Lamb's Army (Revelation 14:1-13)

The final Harvest (Revelation 14:14-20)

The Seven Bowls of Wrath (Revelation 15-16)

Seven Angels Appear and Prepare to Pour Out the Wrath of God (Revelation 15)

Seven Angels Pour Out Seven Bowls of Wrath (Revelation 16)

The Seven Bowls of Wrath						
First Bowl (16:2)	Second Bowl (16:3)	Third Bowl (16:4-7)	Fourth Bowl (16:8-9)	Fifth Bowl (16:10-11)	Sixth Bowl (16:12-16)	Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)
Sores afflict those who accepted the mark of the beast.	Sea turns to blood; all sea creatures die.	Rivers turn to blood.	Mankind scorched by the son, blasphemes God.	The Beast's seat of government is afflicted by darkness.	The Euphrates is dried up; world armies gather to Armageddon	The earth is utterly shaken.

The Fall of Babylon (Revelation 17-19:10)

The harlot and Babylon serve as symbols of nations in rebellion against God.

The Final Battle (Revelation 19:11-20:15)

Image of Jesus Riding on a Horse, the One Who will Dispense Justice (Revelation 19:11-21)

Vision of Reigning Martyrs (Revelation 20:1-6)

Ultimate Destruction (Revelation 20:7-15)

The Marriage of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 21:2-22)

Restored Creation, Free from "The Curse"

A New Garden of Eden

A New Jerusalem

Applications

One day, God will _____ evil once and for all.

One day, God will _____ those who have suffered in His name.

One day, God will _____ the curse and _____ His creation.

Christians must remain _____ and resist the lure of those in _____ to God.